

Christ Lutheran Newsletter

Official Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Augusta, MO 63332

<http://www.clcaugustamo.org>

November 2018

Bible Study/Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Church Phone: (636)228-4642
Pastor's Phone: (636)228-4773

From the Pastor... (sermon from Sunday of sausage dinner)

Mark 10:17-22

"Good teacher, what must I do to acquire, to earn eternal life?" A true follower of Jesus would never ask such a question. And this is why Jesus invites the man to follow Him.

The world does not follow Jesus. The world follows everything but Jesus. This is why there is no certainty in the world. Everyone who is of the world hopes in their heart to gain eternal life. No one hopes that they perish forever. But the world has everything backwards. The world is turned upside down, and so it does not see things as they truly are.

Eternal life cannot be acquired; cannot be earned; but the world thinks that it can. "If I do enough good...if my good outweighs my bad...I will acquire a place in heaven." But notice how the word "if" stands at the forefront. There is no certainty in the word "if." There is no assurance. No one who is of the world can ever truly know and believe, without a doubt, that a place in heaven belongs to them.

And so the man in our text runs up to Jesus to ask, "What must I do to acquire eternal life?" But why did he come? Why did he kneel down to question Jesus? He freely confessed that he had kept all the Commandments since he was a boy. Since he was such a good person; not a murderer, not an adulterer, not a thief, not a liar, and so on...why even bother Jesus with such a question?

We know why. There was doubt in his heart. Maybe just a little doubt, but it was there. This man wanted to live with assurance and die with certainty. But this can never be; not for those who are of the world because the world does not follow Jesus.

Do you follow Jesus? "Oh, I follow CNN...I follow Fox News...I follow Cardinals baseball, but now I follow the Blues...and, oh yeah, I follow Jesus, too." There are people like this. And yes, they are better at following news and sports than at following Jesus Christ.

But what is it, exactly, to follow Jesus? To be aware of Him? To be in the know? Well, look at the invitation Jesus gives the man in our text. "Go, sell all you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven, and come, follow Me." Crud. And here we were hoping that following Jesus was something easy and did not involve sacrifice.

"Because of Jesus you can live with assurance and you can die with certainty."

Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday & Wednesday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Prayer Service

Wednesday morning
11:00 - 11:30 a.m.



Inside this Issue:

- † Altar Guild Meeting
- † Financial Update
- † Christmas Walk
- † Reformation
- † November Calendar

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105



But hey, to follow a sports team, sacrifice is required. A true follower of the Cardinals will sacrifice time to watch their games on television, and will sacrifice money to go to their games. A follower who is really true and loyal will spend money on airline tickets and make time to follow the Cardinals when they play in other cities around the country.

To be a follower...a follower of anything requires sacrifice. We're just really picky and choosy about what we're willing to give up, and this determines what it is that we follow.

Is it possible to follow Jesus with minimal sacrifice? Well, Abraham was required to sacrifice his son Isaac. Peter, James, and John had to sacrifice their careers as fishermen. They with other Christians were required to sacrifice their lives to be Jesus' followers.

But today we don't even like to sacrifice our time on Sunday mornings. We want to be called followers of Jesus, but we want to follow Him on our terms. So really we want Jesus to follow us instead of us following Him. But that just simply makes us people of the world.

That man in our text couldn't do it. He couldn't follow Jesus. And not because he had great possessions, but because his great possessions had him. He did not believe that Jesus was his God. He calls Him, "*Good teacher,*" but after Jesus says only God is good, he drops the word "good" and just calls Him "*teacher.*"

I wouldn't follow Jesus either if He wasn't my God. But He is, and He is your God. And God is good. He wants you to follow Him not for the purpose of making you sacrifice all you have, but rather He wants you to follow Him so that you live with assurance and die with certainty.

"*You will have treasure in heaven,*" Jesus told the man in our text. Not, "you might have." Not, "you'll have treasure in heaven if you keep the Commandments." Oh no. Treasure in heaven is a certainty; not a big "if." Because heaven, eternal life, is given as a gift to all who follow Jesus.

It's not how well you follow Jesus. It's not how long you have followed Him. The thief on the cross was a follower of Jesus for just a few hours. But he was promised the gift of heaven and he died with certainty. That thief could never have said, "I have kept all these Commandments since I was a boy." And it's a good thing he couldn't say that. He had to turn away from his life, a life of disobedience, and by the grace of God he turned to Jesus. He had no great possessions. He had nothing. But he did have Jesus. Today that man who was a thief is in heaven. And his place there has nothing to do with how well he lived. There's just a great big "if" in that. All he possessed was Jesus, but that's what it takes to gain eternal life.

I hope you keep the Commandments. I don't want you to disobey God, nor does He. But don't keep them to gain anything, not with God. Follow Jesus. Those who do receive His gifts, and heaven is one of His gifts. Jesus earned a place in heaven. And because He is good, He gives that place to you. Not to the best out there. He gives a place in heaven to sinners like you and me. Sinners who trust in Him, like the thief did.

We might think that thief now has treasure in heaven. And yes, he does. But even better, Jesus has treasure in heaven. He is the one who sold all He had. He gave to the poor, to poor sinners like you and me, and the thief. And Jesus will have treasure in heaven, and that treasure is you.

Don't just say, "Jesus died on the cross for sinners." Say, "He died for me." Say, "He lived for me...He rose from the dead for me." Because you are His treasure. And He gave up everything for you, to gain for you a place with Him in heaven for all eternity.

Now that's why you want to keep the Commandments. Not to gain points with God, but because you love God. What He did for you is everything. Because of Jesus you can live with assurance and you can die with certainty. You are forgiven of all your disobedience. Every one of you is forgiven. Not "if" you do something. You are forgiven, period, because of Jesus. He declares it, and He is your God.

So you can leave today very much the opposite of how the man in our text left Jesus. He left disheartened because he had great possessions. You can leave with joy, and assurance, and peace, because you have Jesus. Amen.

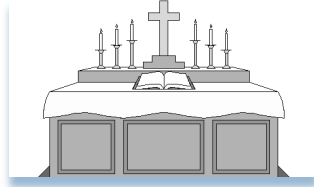
Attendance

August 26 - 64
 September 2 - 47
 September 9 - 51
 September 16 - 63
 September 23 - 58
 September 30 - 46
 October 7 - 42
 October 14 - 25
 October 21 - 56

"I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!" Psalm 122:1

Altar Guild Meeting

There will be a brief Altar Guild meeting immediately following the service on Sunday, November 4th. We will be discussing updates to the monthly schedule as well as new guidelines for how altar flowers are handled. All Altar Guild members are encouraged to attend.



Apple Butter/Fall Work Day

Thanks to all who participated in our annual Apple Butter cooking and Fall Work Day. 69 pints and 10 quarts of delicious apple butter was produced, in addition to the fry shed being cleaned and the grounds spruced up courtesy of this hard working group of volunteers.

Your efforts are greatly appreciated!



Augusta Christmas Walk

The 2018 Augusta Christmas Walk will be held the first two Fridays in December, the 7th and 14th, at the Train Station in Augusta. We will have a booth selling various items and will again offer cookies and wassail as our gift to the community. Sign up sheets for donating cookies and staffing the booth will be available in the Education Wing starting Sunday, November 4th. Please consider helping with this important community celebration - thanks in advance for your support!

Financial Review—September 2018

	<u>Actual Profit/Loss</u>	<u>Against Budget</u>
Contributions—Sept	\$9,099.00	\$9,099.00
Expenses—Sept	\$14,783.86	
Budgeted Planned Expenses	_____	<u>\$10,117.58</u>
Net Deficit—Sept	(\$5,684.86)	(\$1,018.58)
Line of Credit	(\$7,500.00)	

*We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
 All that we have is Thine alone, a trust O Lord from Thee.*
LSB #781—"We Give Thee But Thine Own" vs. 1

Farewell Tea

A farewell tea for Jill Landes was held on Thursday, September 27, at the Berg House in Augusta Shores. A variety of tea sandwiches, savory dishes, assorted desserts and exotic teas were served. Memories were made and shared and a warm and wonderful time of fellowship was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to everyone who helped and/or attended in making this event such a success!

Painting Project Complete

Our painting projects are complete. Phase I included painting of all the window frames, doors, hand rails, the marble inlay above the entry doors, the light posts on the parking lot, and the skylight above the school room entry hall.

Phase II, the painting of the church steeple, is also done. The work needed to prepare it for painting was less than we thought it would be. Also, the way we managed the transportation of the big lift used to paint the steeple saved money. Consequently, the invoice was close to \$3,000 less than estimated. Thank you to Joe Gildehaus, owner of Professional Painting and Decorating. -Tom Kluesner

Reformation—October 31

The Lutheran Reformation is still all about Jesus; that is, faithfully preaching and teaching the good news of Jesus Christ and standing for the teachings of God's Word as they have been confessed in all times and all places wherever the Gospel is purely taught according to a pure understanding of it and where the Sacraments are administered according to Christ's institution. With Martin Luther, we still say, "Here we stand, we cannot do otherwise. God help us. Amen."

The Lutheran Reformation then, and today, is not about throwing away the past, but about retaining and preserving the very best of the Church's rich history and teachings, while filtering out whatever covers and contradicts God's Word and denies the good news of salvation by grace alone, though faith alone, on account of Christ alone.

- From lutheranreformation.org

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need that hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe now means deadly woe; deep guile and great
might, are his dread arms in fight; on earth is not his equal.*

LSB #656—"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" vs. 1



Missouri Amish Country Outing

On Saturday, September 8, despite the threat of rain and overcast skies, a fun day of shopping, sharing and bargain hunting in Amish Country was enjoyed by several of our members. Thanks to Glenda Drier for leading, coordinating and hosting this event - looking forward to the next trip!

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Thanksgiving Food Drive

The annual Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit the Marthasville Food Pantry is now underway through Sunday, November 18. You may donate items as noted on the display in the Education Wing or make a cash or check donation by placing it in the donation jar on the display table. If you donate by check please make it payable to Charette Baptist Church with "food pantry donation" noted on the memo line. Thanks for your help in making this Thanksgiving brighter for those less fortunate in our community!

Morning and Evening Prayers

A good Christian practice is to begin and end each day making the sign of the cross, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and saying the following prayers:

Morning Prayer—"I thank You, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen."

Evening Prayer—"I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen."

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday mornings 9-12	Prayer Service: Wednesday mornings 11-11:30	Quilting & Needlework: Tuesdays 9-3		1 Kendra Latham Larry & Diane Pieper	2 Tim Beumer	3
4 Monica Weirich	5	6 Isabelle Cook	7 7:15 Men's Bible Breakfast	8 Adam Kurtz John & Julie Kurtz	9 Michelle Charles John & Julie Figura	10
11	12 6:00 Elders 7:00 Council	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Sally Warnecke Sandy Toedebusch JB Ueltzen	20	21 (no breakfast or prayer service) 7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Service	22 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	23	24
25 Dennis & Nancy Finley	26 John Freeman	27	28 Sophia Cook	29 Nancy Finley	30 Glennon Stelzer	(Church decorating December 2 after the service)